

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended to delete the formulae (VIb), (IIb) and (IIIb), respectively.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to improve their form. These amendments are not to be deemed to narrow the scope of the claims.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-10 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Restriction/Election

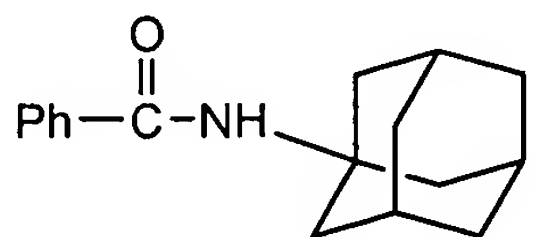
Applicants affirm the election of species, Formula (VIa).

II. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

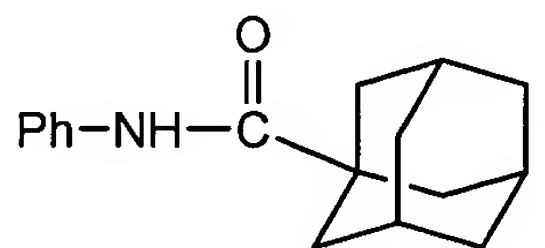
Claims 1, 3 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 07-092681 ("JP '681") in view of Kinoshita et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,479,210).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

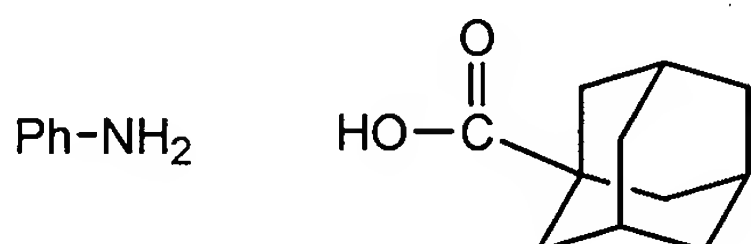
The Examiner relied on JP '681 as disclosing a carboxamide compound such as adamantane carboxylic acid aniline. The Examiner alleged that adamantane carboxylic acid aniline has the following structure:



Applicants respectfully submit that the correct structure of adamantane carboxylic acid aniline is as follows:



Adamantane carboxylic acid aniline is an amido compound derived from adamantane carboxylic acid and aniline:



In contrast, the structure relied upon by the Examiner is an amido compound derived from benzoic acid and adamantylamine.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the compound disclosed in JP '681 does not fall within the scope of the present claims.

Further, Kinoshita et al does not rectify the deficiencies of JP '681.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not obvious over the cited references and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 2 and 4-9 have been objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1, from which Claims 2 and 4-9 depend, primarily or secondarily, has been overcome as set forth above, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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